

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

INHOFE AMENDMENT NO. 2445

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 2057) to authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 347, below line 23, add the following:

SEC. 2833. ELIMINATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY REGARDING PROHIBITION AGAINST CERTAIN CONVEYANCES OF PROPERTY AT NAVAL STATION, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

Section 2826 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (division B of Public Law 105-85; 111 Stat. 2001) is amended by striking out subsection (e).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing previously announced for June 11, 1998, has been rescheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Wednesday, June 17, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1253, the Public Land Management Improvement Act of 1997.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Amie Brown or Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, May 22, 1998, to hold a business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Saturday, April 18, 1998, an article ran

in the Rochester Post Bulletin in Rochester, MN that illustrates very well the tremendous child care challenges facing families. This is a story about a child with disabilities and her parents who are having increasing problems finding quality child care. Mr. President, I will ask that this article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. President, at the age of six months, this young child—Christina Barth—developed infantile spasms or epilepsy. Christina is not alone. More than two million Americans have some form of epilepsy. More than one fourth of them are children under the age of 18.

Upon her diagnosis, Christina was treated with many different types of medication. Unfortunately, none of the treatments worked successfully. Then, at the age of three, Christina underwent a partial lobotomy on the right side of her brain. The surgery successfully treated her disease for almost two years. But then, the symptoms developed on the left side of her brain. Since that time, Christina has lived with epilepsy.

Now Christina is 11 years old. She attends a special education class at Gage Elementary School. She functions on the cognitive level of an 18-month-old child. Her family hopes and prays that a cure for epilepsy will be found someday.

Like most other families with special needs children, Christina's parents face daily challenges in caring for their child. Identifying high quality child care is among the most difficult challenges her parents face.

Finding a child care provider—whether it be a commercial day care center or an in-home care giver—is becoming more and more difficult. This point was made by a witness who recently testified before the Finance Committee about the challenges of finding child care for a child with disabilities.

Most child care providers tend not to enroll special needs children because often the child needs one-on-one care. And, the fear of the unknown presents an added risk to an already demanding job.

In Christina's case, a state funded agency has helped her family locate an in-home care giver that cares for Christina while her parents are at work.

But, Mr. President, access is only the first hurdle in finding child care. Quality is equally important. Unfortunately, in Christina's case, her child care providers have not been adequately trained to handle or even recognize when Christina has an epileptic attack.

At one time, Mr. President, the agency that placed the providers with Christina called her parent's to warn them of an employee and told them to call the police if she came to their home.

This raises a question Mr. President. Who is watching the watchers?

Mr. President, in the national debate about child care it seems to me that

not enough is being said about the challenges facing families with children who have disabilities.

Child care policies must address issues of access and quality as it relates to special needs children. Many of the bills introduced this year do not address special needs issues. In fact, Senate bill 1610 asks for more than 20 billion dollars through fiscal year 2003 to improve the affordability of child care and an additional three billion dollars through fiscal year 2003 for enhancing the quality of child care and early childhood development. However, there are no provisions regarding an increase of availability, affordability, and quality of child care for children with special needs.

It is our duty, Mr. President, to make sure that these special needs children and their parents have the same opportunities as other children and families. Today I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure that children with special needs are not left out or forgotten in any legislation regarding child care that comes before this Congress.

Mr. President, I ask that the article from the Rochester Post Bulletin be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD CARE IS "ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN"

(By Mary Divine)

Julie Sauer's daughter was only 6 months old when she began shaking and quivering uncontrollably. No reason, no explanation.

For the next two years of her life, little Christina Barth experienced almost constant seizures, said Sauer, a lab technician at Mayo Clinic. Finally, when she was 2½, Christina underwent a partial lobotomy at UCLA's Medical Center.

Christina, now 11 and a student at Gage Elementary School, is mentally disabled and has an intractable seizure disorder. She functions at the level of an 18-month old child, Sauer said.

Because of her special needs Christina needs specialized child care, child care that Julie Sauer said isn't available in Rochester.

"Our dilemma is finding child care for her before school, for non-school days and for the upcoming summer vacation," Julie Sauer said.

Sauer and her husband, Bob Sauer, the owner of Rochester Drain-Rite, have been in touch with the School-Age Child Care program. Child Care Resource and Referral, Arc Olmsted County, Hiawatha Homes and a home day care provider. Child Care Resource and Referral found that area day care centers and School-Age Child Care did not have enough staff to provide the one-to-one care Christina requires, Julie Sauer said.

"If only there were a place that was capable of taking care of her, like a day care center," Julie Sauer muses as she strokes her daughter's hair.

UNSATISFACTORY CARE

Since the beginning of the school year, the Sauers have relied on before and after school care provided by a personal care attendant. But the Sauers say the care isn't satisfactory.

"We had five new people in one week," Bob Sauer said. "We have people who never even showed up."

The turnover in staff is confusing to Christina, Julie Sauer said. "She doesn't want to